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## Consumer Price Index, South Region – May 2016

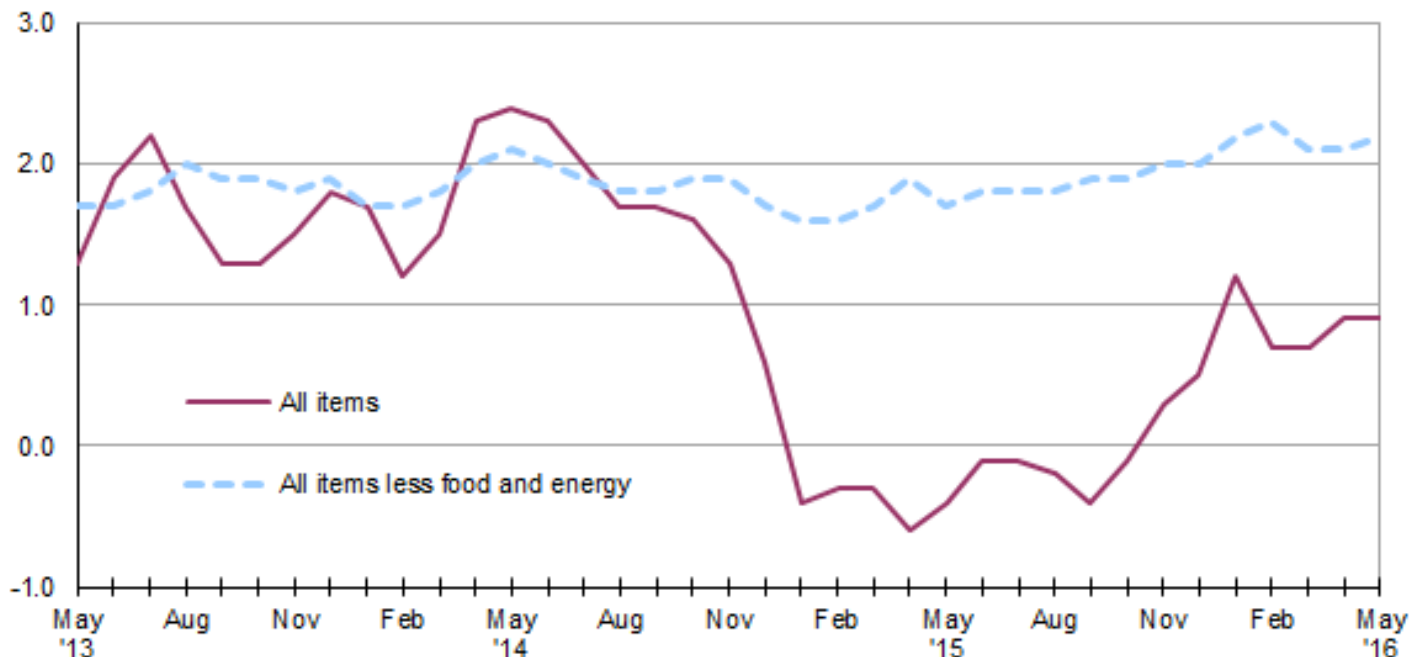
### Prices up 0.4 percent over the month and 0.9 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.4 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The energy index advanced 4.1 percent over the month and the all items less food and energy index edged up 0.2 percent. The food index declined 0.2 percent in May. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U rose 0.9 percent. The all items less food and energy index increased 2.2 percent over the year reflecting price increases for shelter, medical care, education and communication, and recreation. (See [chart 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, May 2013–May 2016**

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

The food index edged down 0.2 percent in May. Prices for food at home declined 0.5 percent over the month, while those for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent.

Since May 2015, the food index rose 0.4 percent, reflecting higher prices for food away from home (2.0 percent). The food at home index decreased 0.8 percent over the year.

## Energy

The energy index advanced 4.1 percent in May, led by a 7.4-percent rise in motor fuel prices. Prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service advanced 1.5 and 0.4 percent, respectively.

Over the year, energy prices declined 9.8 percent, reflecting a 15.8-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Prices for electricity (-3.2 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (-2.8 percent) also declined over the year.

## All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index edged up 0.2 percent in May led by an increase in the shelter index (0.3 percent).

Since May 2015, the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.2 percent as several indexes recorded increases, most notably shelter (2.9 percent). Medical care, led by increases in both medical care services (3.5 percent) and medical care commodities (2.4 percent), rose 3.2 percent over the year. Other indexes with over-the-year increases included education and communication (1.4 percent) and recreation (1.6 percent).

**Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.5	3.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2
February.....	0.6	3.3	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7
March.....	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7
April.....	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9
May.....	-0.4	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4	0.4	0.9
June.....	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1		
July.....	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1		
August.....	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2		
September.....	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4		
October.....	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1		
November.....	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3	-0.2	0.3		
December.....	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.5		

**The Consumer Price Index for June 2016 is scheduled to be released on Friday, July 15, 2016.**

## Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf>.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	May 2016	May 2015	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	230.977	231.975	232.906	0.9	0.8	0.4
All items (December 1977=100).....	374.676	376.295	377.806	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	246.284	246.329	245.899	0.4	-0.2	-0.2
Food .....	247.659	247.685	247.128	0.4	-0.2	-0.2
Food at home .....	239.226	239.123	237.930	-0.8	-0.5	-0.5
Food away from home.....	263.080	263.298	263.683	2.0	0.2	0.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	226.532	226.871	228.379	1.3	0.8	0.7
Housing .....	223.438	223.762	224.587	1.8	0.5	0.4
Shelter .....	255.585	256.290	257.150	2.9	0.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	263.374	264.147	264.949	3.6	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	257.340	258.039	258.748	2.7	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	257.330	258.028	258.736	2.7	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	222.014	221.103	223.388	-1.8	0.6	1.0
Household energy .....	178.979	177.943	180.293	-3.3	0.7	1.3
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	179.357	178.301	180.740	-3.1	0.8	1.4
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	179.393	178.394	181.077	-3.2	0.9	1.5
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	164.225	162.875	163.465	-2.8	-0.5	0.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	121.449	121.265	120.981	-1.5	-0.4	-0.2
Apparel.....	136.650	136.869	136.625	0.0	0.0	-0.2
Transportation .....	190.858	194.784	198.250	-2.9	3.9	1.8
Private transportation .....	188.487	192.535	195.705	-3.0	3.8	1.6
New and used motor vehicles <sup>(3)</sup> .....	104.169	104.353	104.033	-0.3	-0.1	-0.3
New vehicles .....	154.794	154.445	154.010	-0.2	-0.5	-0.3
New cars and trucks <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	105.423	105.171	104.876	-0.1	-0.5	-0.3
New cars <sup>(4)</sup> .....	155.228	154.659	154.128	-0.8	-0.7	-0.3
Used cars and trucks.....	146.816	148.060	147.674	-1.8	0.6	-0.3
Motor fuel .....	163.840	177.154	190.330	-15.8	16.2	7.4
Gasoline (all types).....	163.061	176.441	189.611	-15.7	16.3	7.5
Unleaded regular <sup>(4)</sup> .....	158.432	171.956	185.246	-16.5	16.9	7.7
Unleaded midgrade <sup>(4) (5)</sup> .....	183.692	195.669	208.865	-12.9	13.7	6.7
Unleaded premium <sup>(4)</sup> .....	183.411	195.403	206.881	-11.8	12.8	5.9
Medical care .....	436.755	437.480	437.172	3.2	0.1	-0.1
Medical care commodities.....	349.968	351.695	348.286	2.4	-0.5	-1.0
Medical care services.....	466.003	466.316	467.261	3.5	0.3	0.2
Professional services .....	360.226	360.276	361.628	1.7	0.4	0.4
Recreation <sup>(3)</sup> .....	118.139	118.426	118.432	1.6	0.2	0.0
Education and communication <sup>(3)</sup> .....	137.169	137.200	136.790	1.4	-0.3	-0.3
Other goods and services .....	411.505	412.283	414.542	2.5	0.7	0.5
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All Items.....	230.977	231.975	232.906	0.9	0.8	0.4
Commodities .....	178.844	180.223	180.903	-2.1	1.2	0.4
Commodities less food and beverages .....	147.046	148.920	150.024	-3.7	2.0	0.7
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	183.961	187.988	191.209	-4.8	3.9	1.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	214.168	220.353	225.526	-6.4	5.3	2.3
Durables .....	111.241	111.435	110.935	-1.7	-0.3	-0.4
Services.....	283.493	284.133	285.316	2.8	0.6	0.4
Rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	262.272	263.010	263.901	3.0	0.6	0.3
Transportation services .....	321.415	325.023	328.485	5.2	2.2	1.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	May 2016	May 2015	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016
Other services .....	339.449	339.754	340.218	2.9	0.2	0.1
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	219.699	220.702	221.684	0.7	0.9	0.4
All items less food .....	228.181	229.327	230.487	1.0	1.0	0.5
All items less shelter .....	222.442	223.568	224.535	-0.1	0.9	0.4
Commodities less food .....	149.489	151.333	152.451	-3.5	2.0	0.7
Nondurables .....	213.535	215.657	217.131	-2.2	1.7	0.7
Nondurables less food .....	186.133	189.963	193.091	-4.4	3.7	1.6
Nondurables less food and apparel .....	214.132	219.817	224.671	-5.7	4.9	2.2
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	319.045	319.580	321.172	2.6	0.7	0.5
Services less medical care services .....	267.011	267.663	268.845	2.7	0.7	0.4
Energy .....	168.538	173.868	180.957	-9.8	7.4	4.1
All items less energy .....	238.695	239.219	239.475	1.9	0.3	0.1
All items less food and energy .....	237.529	238.141	238.541	2.2	0.4	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	148.832	149.111	148.579	-0.7	-0.2	-0.4
Energy commodities .....	167.238	180.474	193.537	-15.8	15.7	7.2
Services less energy services .....	294.498	295.329	296.366	3.2	0.6	0.4

**Footnotes**

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.